PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS
IADN: ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE AMERICAS
(LAG-G-00-00-00036-00)

Quarterly Report
January 1 – March 31, 2004

I. BACKGROUND

The 1995 Summit of the Americas Plan of Action called for preserving and strengthening the community of democracies in the Americas by stressing economic prosperity, democracy and human rights in the hemisphere. At the same time, the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN or Network) began to take shape as a result of the joint efforts of five Latin American civil society organizations, working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Partners of the Americas (Partners), to use citizen participation to strengthen and support the process of democratization which was sweeping across Latin America.

In 1995, USAID/LAC entered into a five-year cooperative agreement with Partners to build the Inter-American Democracy Network. The grant enabled this core group of founding members to transfer their skills in participatory democratic practices to dozens of other CSOs in the region. In September, 2000, building on the success in the first five years and based on a participatory evaluation of the IADN, USAID extended its support of the IADN through a new Cooperative Agreement with Partners. This three-year program was designed to increase and sustain collaborative action among leading CSOs in the region. The program focused on further strengthening the IADN, to ensure that: (1) its efforts to support self-help collaboration between members could be sustained; and (2) the network becomes a viable voice for civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, Partners has worked with the Network to design and implement its governance structure—including a democratically-elected Coordinating Group and an Executive Secretariat. Moreover, Partners has guided the development of an Internet-based system for communications and outreach, the participatory development of network governing processes, and workshops, training and assistance in such areas as fund raising and alliance building. The Network has grown into the largest organization of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, counting among its members some 250 CSOs from 24 countries.

In 2003, USAID extended and expanded its existing Cooperative Agreement (LAG-G-00-00-00036-00) with Partners. This new, two-year grant, entitled "Inter-American Democracy Network: Engaging Civil Society in the Americas," will:
- Increase the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations to participate in, inform the agenda of and monitor the implementation of mandates resulting from the Summit of the Americas Process;
- Increase the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations to mobilize citizen participation in and monitoring and oversight of local and national government;
- Expand and strengthen the network of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations that encourage and assist civic activism at the local, national and regional levels.

II. QUARTERLY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

During the first quarter of 2004, Partners and the IADN finalized and opened for enrollment a virtual course with the prestigious *Escuela Virtual de Gobernabilidad* of the University of Catalunya, developed a membership fee structure, launched the "Transparency in the Americas" sub-grant program, and expanded collaborations with a wide array of institutions and organizations. These activities are summarized below:

E-Learning

Working with the *Escuela Virtual de Gobernabilidad*, the IADN and Partners have completed development of the curriculum and syllabus for an online course entitled "Constructing Social Capital". The course's goal is to strengthen participants' ability to analyze and implement mechanisms for greater civil society participation in public life and policymaking. Its four sections focus on the following topics: the importance of civil society in public life; institutions, governability and participation; civil society in the contemporary world; and influencing public policies. "Constructing Social Capital" will be taught from September 1, 2004, to December 31, 2004. Pre-enrollment is currently open and USAID/IADN scholarships are available for members of the network. Course material can be accessed at: http://www.iigov.org/evg/.

This course is one of various virtual learning opportunities being developed by Partners and the IADN.

IADN Membership Fee

As part of the IADN's larger sustainability plan, the Secretariat and Partners jointly designed a multi-tiered membership fee system that will provide some revenue to support future IADN operations. Member organizations will pay an annual fee between $75.00 and $400.00 based upon the organizations' annual income from the previous year. Individuals may also join the network as "Friends of the IADN" or "Young Friends of the IADN" – persons belonging to one of these categories will pay a yearly fee of $50.00 and $20.00 respectively and are not entitled to the same benefits as member organizations. The membership fee structure appears in the IADN's new Spanish and English brochures and will be formally announced to all members in the coming month.

"Transparency in the Americas" Sub-Grant Program

During this quarter, a new $800,000 grants program was designed for IADN member civil society organizations, which work toward lowering the levels of corruption in planning and implementing public sector budgets. The grants program, named "Transparency in the Americas", was developed with the help of an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from multi-lateral, bilateral and nonprofit organizations. The grants program will provide project funds to between 30 and 60 Latin American and Caribbean NGOs and other civil society groups. Grantees will work together with local governments and citizens to cultivate transparency within their local governments. Funded projects will reinforce transparent budgetary rules and

regulations, promote public access to budgetary information and increase citizen participation in monitoring and evaluating local budget plans and their implementation.

Expansion of Collaborations

In the past quarter, Partners and the IADN have both advanced prior collaborative opportunities and embarked upon establishing new partnerships. With regard to Component I, Summit of the Americas activities, Partners continues to work with the Organization of American States (OAS), Corporación PARTICIPA, Alianza Cívica, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), Tulane University's Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (Tulane), Asociación Latinoamérica de Organizaciones de Participación (ALOP), and Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES). The Carter Center is a new ally in this strategy.

Collaborations necessary for the advancement of objectives listed in Component II now include: Federación de Municipios del Istmo Centroamericano (FEMICA), Federación Latinoamericana de Cuidades, Municipios y Asociaciones (FLACMA),Transparency International-US, and Transparency International-Latin America and the Caribbean (TILAC). Partners, with and through the IADN, has also engaged in collaborative discussions with the Community of Democracies, the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties (IAFPP) – an initiative of the OAS Unit for Promotion of Democracy (UPD), Fundación Pablo Iglesias del Partido Socialista Obrero Espanol, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Inter-American Initiative on Social Capital, Ethics and Development of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Freedom House, Fundación Konrad Adenauer and Polilat.com, the Program for Democratic Government in Latin America (PRODDAL) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), and the Instituto de Conectividad de las Américas (ICA).

III. MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER

Component I – Constructively Engage Civil Society in the Preparation, Accompaniment and Monitoring of the Summit of the Americas Process and Resulting Action Plan

During the quarter, Partners engaged in activities that advanced the objectives identified in the first component of the 2003-2004 USAID workplan. After working with a consortium of CSOs from throughout the hemisphere to plan and facilitate the civil society forum at the Special Summit of the Americas, Partners has emerged from this group as a leader in designing a new, more inclusive and focused strategy for continuing CSO participation in the Summit of the Americas process. Through the Buenos Aires-based IADN Secretariat, key contacts have been made with Argentine officials responsible for the organization of the 2005 Summit and other Summit-related activities. The involvement of civil society in Summit issues and follow-up has been furthered by a newly designed format for the Civil Society Task Force and advancements in the Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy.

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter's Objectives

I.   *Engaging LAC CSOs in the Special Summit of the Americas in 2004 and the 2005 Summit*

    1.1 Strategy for Ongoing CSO Involvement in the Summit Process

Building upon the lessons learned during the civil society forum and the foreign ministers meeting at the Monterrey Special Summit of the Americas and previous Summit spaces, Partners, in conjunction with other CSOs from throughout the region, recognized that CSO participation in the Summit process would be more effective with a strategy that both broadened and deepened involvement. Working within the consortium of CSOs facilitating civil society participation in the Summit process, Partners helped form a small working group to design a new strategy for participation leading up to the 2005 Summit. Since then, Partners has assumed the de facto role of head of this group due to its spearheading the writing and design of the strategy. The strategy entitled "Civil Society Collaborating to Build a Hemispheric Agenda" seeks to foster participatory and representative multilateral processes where civil society and governments work together to accomplish the social, political, and economic goals of the hemisphere that have been outlined in the Plans of Actions emerging from the Summit of the Americas process. At its heart, this new strategy seeks to increase the participation and constructive engagement of Latin American and Caribbean civil society in the Summit process, which includes the SIRG, General Assembly, theme-specific conferences, on-going consultations, and ministerial meetings. It will do so by building upon a participatory process in which civil society identifies and engage

The strategy will mobilize CSOs from throughout the hemisphere to participate in the Summit process through ongoing, sectoral-based virtual deliberations that feed into regional face-to-face deliberative forums (in North America, the Caribbean and Central America, the Andean region, and the Southern Cone) and via the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) – the OAS body that sets the agenda and provides a framework for the eventual drafts of Summit declarations and plans of action. In combining sectoral virtual deliberations and on-the-ground

deliberative forums, the final products presented to national and multilateral decision makers will represent the opinions and expertise of a larger quantity and more diverse body of CSOs and will result in an engagement that is both more focused and more strategic. Syntheses of the virtual deliberations will provide the framework for face-to-face regional deliberative forums. Both the virtual syntheses and the results of the regional forums will be presented to the SIRG and at the 2005 Summit. They will also be presented to additional appropriate multilateral and national-level bodies, including thematic conferences, Ministerial meetings, and issue-specific OAS units.

By combining virtual and face-to-face regional deliberative forums, the quantity of CSOs participating in the Summit process will substantially increase. CSOs that lack the resources to attend regional deliberative forums can virtually participate in the process, and additionally, a shift in focus from hemispheric to regional face-to-face forums will permit increased inclusion. Recognizing the importance of increased education and awareness building around the Summit and its themes, civil society news services will continuously disseminate e-bulletins and a virtual space will be provided for working groups, experts, and others to share papers, publications, and other materials.

The four outcomes of "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda" include:

- Establishment of a permanent, more effective space within the Summit process and related supporting processes for more substantive and action-based participation on the part of civil society.
- Broadened CSO participation through an ongoing approach that combines deeper collaboration with coordinated participation.
- Changed nature of CSO participation in the Summits through a deliberative process that involves sharing and evaluating arguments to work toward building common ground.
- Deepened alliances, information sharing, collaborative exchanges, and program/project support with multilateral institutions/processes.
- Greater support of the Summit process so that citizens see it as a legitimate and effective mechanism for the improvement of their quality of lives and the functioning of democratic institutions throughout the Americas.

This strategy has recently been approved by the larger CSO consortium and will be publicly announced in the near term. A copy of "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda" can be found in the annex.

1.2 IADN Secretariat Prepares for the 2005 Summit

During the past quarter, the IADN has positioned itself as integral to civil society participation in the 2005 Summit. The Secretariat has held meetings with the Executive Secretary of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat at the OAS, her deputy, and national Argentine officials responsible for organizing and coordinating the 2005 Summit. Through these meetings, the Secretariat has been able to advance the desires of civil society to be included in processes leading up to and during the 2005 Summit. The IADN's role as a leading voice in the Summit process is illustrated by its submission, at the request of the OAS, of a brief opinion piece summarizing civil society's perspective on the Special Summit.

II.   *Building CSO Awareness and Understanding of the Summit Process and Action Plans*

2.1 Engaging Civil Society in Dialogue and Deliberation of the Summit Process through the Civil Society Task Force

In December, Partners awarded the Esquel Group Foundation (EGF) a 22-month grant for the continuation of Civil Society Task Force activities in Washington and potential replication in other countries in Latin America. The Washington-based monthly meetings gather a regular audience that varies from 30 to over 90 representatives of NGOs, academia, international organizations, labor unions, and US and other government agencies. Over the past quarter, the EGF and Partners worked with the United States National Coordinator for the Summit of the Americas at the US Department of State to launch a new bi-monthly series entitled "The Summit of the Americas in Focus". This series will supplant the Civil Society Task Force meetings every other month with discussions on topics specifically related to the Summit, and when interest arises, additional follow-up discussions can be convened with ad-hoc groups. "Summit of the Americas in Focus" is intended to provide a space for civil society organizations to engage U.S. Government officials on the range of topics covered by the Summit of the Americas, on implementation of Summit commitments, and on priorities for future Summits of the Americas. Ambassador John Maisto launched the first meeting of the new series, "Fighting Corruption and Increasing Transparency: Economic and Political Priority for the Hemisphere", at a March session in which he expressed his hope that this forum become an integral part of the Summit of the Americas process. The next meeting of this series will occur in May.

In addition to this series, the Civil Society Task Force also held two other meetings over the past quarter. In January, Peter Hakim of the Inter-American Dialogue, Ramon Daubon of the Esquel Group Foundation, and Cynthia Smith of Partners were the featured discussants at the meeting titled "Is Anyone Listening?: Civil Society Participation in the Summits of the Americas After Monterrey." In February, Binka Le Breton, author of *Trapped: Modern-Day Slavery in the Brazilian Amazon* and John Garrison of The World Bank led an eye-opening discussion on slavery in the Brazilian Amazon.

The meeting minutes and participant lists of the January, February, and March Civil Society Task Force meetings are included in the annex. In addition, the Esquel Group Foundation's quarterly activity summary can be found in the annex.

2.2 IADN Dissemination of Information on the Summit Process

In the past quarter, the IADN has greatly expanded civil society knowledge of the Summit process by sharing information on the Special Summit and other activities that will help shape the 2005 Summit. The IADN's civil society news service, INFORID, has published and distributed numerous articles reaching civil society and mass media from throughout the hemisphere. Also, the IADN website posts Summit-related developments along with a comprehensive introduction to the Summit process and the importance of civil society engagement. Corporación Participa, a member of the IADN Coordinating Group, published a

comparative analysis that can be found on the IADN's website, which found that 45 percent of the commitments included in the Declaration of Nuevo Leon coincide with CSO proposals.

The INFORID article highlighting Participa's findings, along with three other Summit-related articles can be found in the annex to this section.

III. *Mobilizing Civil Society Participation in Monitoring the 2001 Quebec Summit Action Plan Implementation*

3.1 Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy for the Québec City Plan of Action

In the last quarter, Partners continued to support Corporación Participa's efforts to work with organizations from 20 countries in the region to educate citizens and CSOs about the Summit of the Americas and the commitments made by governments to strengthen democracy. As part of Partners' sub-contract with Participa, this project has been extended to Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru. Ecuador is the fourth intended destination but the project is still awaiting implementation there. The Follow-Up Strategy has collected information using quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure the degree of implementation of the access to information, freedom of expression, strengthening of civil society, access to justice and independence of the judiciary, and decentralizations and strengthening of local governments mandates from the Quebec City Plan of Action.

Working with the national coordinators, Participa has finalized and released the Bolivian and Peruvian national reports. These reports, along with those of other countries, are available at: www.sociedadcivil.org and their release has been announced via Participa's listserv and INFORID. The Colombia report is nearly complete and will be released in the near term. In Ecuador, Corporación Latinoamericana para el Desarollo (CLD) has agreed to carry out the project and is awaiting notification of funding from the Andean Development Corporation (CAF). As a result of certain on-the-ground circumstances, Partners has extended the time for completion of this project from January 31, 2004, to June 30, 2004.

As mentioned previously, Participa also developed and published a comparative analysis of commitments made at the Special Summit with CSO recommendations. This analysis, along with the executive summaries of the Bolivia and Peru country reports and Participa'a quarterly report, can be found in the annex.

Annex

1. "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda"
2. "Is Anyone Listening?: Civil Society Participation in the Summits of the Americas After Monterrey" – Meeting minutes and participant list
3. "Not Yet on the Hemispheric Agenda: Modern Day Slavery in the Brazilian Amazon" – Meeting minutes and participant list
4. "Fighting Corruption and Increasing Transparency: Economic and Political Priority for the Hemisphere" – Meeting minutes and participant list
5. Civil Society Task Force quarterly summary

6. "A High Percentage of the Commitments Assumed in the Nuevo Leon Declaration coincide with CSO proposals" – Distributed by INFORID
7. "Civil Society Organizations Follow-Up on the Summits of the Americas" - Distributed by INFORID
8. "Accountability in the Summits of the Americas" - Distributed by INFORID
9. Facing the IV Summit of the Americas. "First OAS Meeting with Argentine Civil Society" - Distributed by INFORID
10. Comparative analysis of commitments made at the Special Summit of the Americas versus CSO recommendations
11. Bolivia National Report Executive Summary
12. Peru National Report Executive Summary
13. Corporación Participa's quarterly report – "Civil Society Follow-up to Quebec's Summit of the Americas' Plan of Action"

Component II - Mobilize and Sustain Citizen Participation in Informing, Accompanying and Monitoring Anti-Corruption and Transparency Efforts

During the reporting period, Partners laid the foundation for increasing the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations to mobilize citizen participation in the monitoring and oversight of local and national governments. Activities have focused on developing formal agreements between Partners, the IADN and regional and hemispheric associations, conducting an informal analysis of the state of corruption and the environment for citizen participation in transparency efforts throughout the region, and developing the "Transparency in the Americas" Grants Program terms of reference. Partners has successfully met and developed agreements with three organizations and held tele-conferences with two others to investigate possibilities for future collaboration. Agreements have been drafted and are awaiting signature and follow-up meetings are scheduled for the next quarter. In addition, pre-existing tools and research were collected and evaluated to finalize the regional analysis. The findings were used to design a grant program that ensures maximum results for the investment of financial and technical resources. Finally, Partners met with the grant program's Advisory-Selection Committee and developed the grant program's terms of reference.

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter's Objectives

I.   *Collaboration formalized between the IADN, regional and hemispheric associations, and municipal and local government officials and organizations*

During this period, Partners and the IADN Executive Secretariat began formalizing agreements for sustained collaboration with the Federación de Municipios del Istmo Centroamericano (FEMICA), Freedom House, Transparency International-LAC, Federación Latinoamericana de Cuidades, Municipios y Asociaciones (FLACMA), and Florida International University.

     1.1 FEMICA

During this quarter, Partners and the IADN participated in the XIII Asemblea General Ordinaria de Alcaldes y Autoridades Electas de Centroamérica (Thirteen General Assembly of Mayors and Elected Officials of Central America), which took place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras at the end of January. During the Assembly, Partners made a presentation on the IADN and civil society-local government initiatives to FEMICA's newly-elected board. This presentation introduced Partners and the IADN to local government officials, including the IADN's objectives and examples of successful, joint civil society-government collaborations in Latin America. Moreover, the face-to-face meeting between Partners and FEMICA provided an opportunity to brainstorm possible first steps in formalizing collaborative efforts between the IADN and FEMICA. A number of ideas including collaborating to apply for funding, information sharing, and joint virtual trainings were debated. FEMICA's new board was very excited about the prospect of collaborating with the IADN; however FEMICA's staff was a little more hesitant. As a result of the presentation and meeting in Honduras, Partners, the IADN Secretariat and FEMICA's technical advisor drafted a collaborative information sharing agreement that is currently awaiting signature.

Complete Trip report and Draft Agreement are attached for review.

1.2 Transparency International- LAC

At the beginning of the quarter, Partners met with the director of Transparency International-LAC to investigate possible areas for formal collaboration including a region-wide Transparency and Anti-Corruption Conference and the Monitoring of the OAS Convention Against Corruption. Transparency International-LAC agreed to participate as a member of the design and selection committee for the IADN's "Transparency in the Americas" Grants Program. In addition, Partners, the IADN and Transparency International-LAC have drafted a new multi-year collaborative agreement. Currently Partners is working with TILAC to develop a proposal to look for funding for the regional Transparency and Anti-Corruption Conference that is tentatively planned for early next year.

Draft of agreement and Conference concept paper are attached for review.

1.3 FLACMA

In addition, Partners and the IADN continue talks with the Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones, Ciudades y Municipios (FLACMA). FLACMA invited Partners and the IADN to participate in the Primer Congreso Latinoamericano de Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia April 19-21. The IADN will participate as a panelist in the panel "Strategic Alliances and Institutional Coordination". On April 20th, the IADN will present the successful, joint civil society-government project of transparency in contracting municipal waste services in Moron, Argentina. A representative of the IADN Secretariat will also meet the FLACMA's Executive Director Jaime Torresto discuss formal collaboration between the IADN and FLACMA.

Copy of IADN Panel Presentation and Conference Agenda are attached for review.

1.4 Florida International University

Similarly, Partners has been invited to host a panel on "Civil Society and Local Governance: Building New and Better Relationships" for the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities to take place in Miami, Florida June 22-24, 2004.

Copy of Invitation to host concurrent panel and draft program are attached for review.

1.5 USAID - Paraguay

Over the course of the last quarter, Partners followed up on a request by Steven A. Marma, Democracy Officer for the USAID Paraguayan missions, to sponsor a conference/training for civil society watchdog organizations in Paraguay. Conference details are currently being discussed between Partners and the Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo (CIRD), USAID's sub-grantee for civil society programs in Paraguay and an offspring organization of Partners of the Americas Paraguay/Kansas. Partners and CIRD have decided to hold the conference in Asunción for members of the Red de Controlorias Ciudadanas of

Paraguay and IADN members in the southern cone region. We anticipate that the conference will take place in or around August of this year and will provide opportunities for southern cone watchdog organizations to build organizational and technical capacity through the sharing of best practices and specialized training.

II.   IADN Interventions in Transparency and Anti-Corruption Complementary to Existing Initiatives

2.1 Hemispheric Analysis

Before selecting the specific objectives and focus area(s) for the transparency and anticorruption small grants program, POA felt it was necessary to understand the current situation and identify opportunities for civil society participation in the reduction of corruption in the LAC region. To accomplish this task, POA conducted an extensive analysis, using data from regional and country specific diagnostics published by Transparency International and the World Bank, and information gathered from expert opinions, and bilateral and multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, Organization for American States, Inter-American Development Bank, Hewlett Foundation Survey, and the University of Pittsburgh Latin American Public Opinion Project, among others. The goal of the investigation was to gather and analyze information in order to answer four important questions: 1) In which governmental institutions or processes are corruption and the lack of transparency a problem?; 2) Where and in what areas are bilateral, multilateral and private organizations focusing their anticorruption initiatives?; 3) Where is a need not being met?; and 4) Where can civil society organizations, especially the members of the IADN, have the most impact through a one-year small grants program?

The analysis: 1) revealed government institutions with the highest levels of corruption; 2)catalogued existing anti-corruption and transparency programs and interventions; and 3) examined theories and recommendations to maximize the involvement of civil society organizations in improving transparency and reducing corruption. As a result of the analysis, Partners and the Advisory Committee identified transparency in public sector budget planning and execution and the local/municipal level as a key and principal area for civil society intervention.

Copy of Analysis is attached for review.

III.   Financial and Technical Resources Provided to Network Members to Implement Transparency/Anti-Corruption Initiatives

To contribute to lowering the levels of corruption in planning and implementing public sector budgets, thereby increasing government efficiency and responsiveness to citizens' needs, POA and the IADN will launch the "Transparency in the Americas" grants program on April 2, 2004. This program will provide small grants to IADN member civil society organizations working towards strengthening citizen participation in initiatives that improve transparency in all stages of the planning and execution of public sector budgets. Grantees will work together with IADN members, local governments and other stakeholders reinforcing transparent budgetary rules and regulations, promoting public access to budgetary information and promoting citizen

participation in monitoring and evaluating local budget plans and their implementation. The grant program will provide CSOs with the opportunity to improve their technical capacity; foster an enabling environment for CSO and local government collaborations; and strengthen the IADN in order to support regional transparency and anti-corruption initiatives.

3.1 Sub-Grant Advisory Committee

In order to incorporate expert opinion into the grants program, an advisory-selection committee was formed. On Monday, March 15 the Committee met for the first time in the offices of Partners of the Americas in Washington, DC. The day long event was designed with the purpose of developing the objectives, focus and evaluation criteria for the "Transparency in the Americas" grants program. The committee was comprised of bilingual representatives from ICMA, UNDP, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Transparency International-LAC, Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Americas (CEJA), USAID, and the Secretariat of the IADN all of which have recognized expertise in the areas of anti-corruption, transparency, local government and judicial reform in Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting and follow-up communications and consultations with advisory committee members produced the grant programs' terms of reference and evaluation criteria. In the upcoming quarter, Committee members will be responsible for the review, evaluation and selection of grant proposals.

Biographies of Sub-Grant Advisory Committee Members, March 2004 meeting agenda and criteria checklist are attached for review.

3.2 Terms of Reference Developed and Disseminated

On April 2, 2004, Partners and the IADN will publish the terms of reference for the "Transparency in the Americas" grants program. Information about the grants program will be disseminated electronically to all IADN members and through the IADN web-page. A separate e-mail account was established to address any concerns or questions candidates may have and all answers to questions will be posted on the IADN web page grant program's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. IADN members will have between April 2 and May 7, 2004 to develop their proposals. Next quarter, Partners will receive and review proposals to ensure they meet the basic criteria; those proposals that do will then be distributed to committee members for their review. During June 2004, members will meet again to discuss the reviewed proposals and select project finalists. Once finalists have been chosen, Partners will distribute funds and monitor and evaluate the projects from June/July 2004 through June/July 2005. During project implementation, advisory/selection committee members can elect to receive up-to-date information on project outcomes, successes and lessons learned. Moreover, Partners will provide opportunities for subgrantees to exchange effective practices and receive training and technical support. To this end, Partners has pursued the development of the regional conference with Transparency International-LAC, among other opportunities for virtual and on-the-ground training.

Terms of Reference and the Announcement are attached for review.

Annex

1. FEMICA trip report & Draft Agreement
2. TILAC Draft Agreement & Conference Concept Paper
3. Presentation for FLACMA Conference & Conference Agenda
4. Invitation from Florida International University & Draft Agenda
5. Agenda for Advisory Committee Meeting and Committee Member Biographies
6. Completed Transparency in the Americas Grant Program Analysis
7. Completed Transparency in the Americas Grant Program Terms of Reference
8. Transparency in the Americas Sub-Grant Program Announcement

Component III – <u>Consolidate and Strengthen the Network for Sustainability</u>

During the past quarter, Partners supported the IADN Secretariat in expanding its visibility and membership, seeking new funding opportunities, implementing virtual learning courses for its membership, and strengthening its organizational structure. The IADN Secretariat also has initiated contact, shared information, and followed-up with numerous organizations in Latin America, North America, and Europe. The following section outlines these activities and other, related initiatives.

<u>Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter's Objectives</u>

I.   *Building the IADN Coordinating Group's Capacity to Govern the Network*

        1.1 Procedures Manual

Building a sound organizational structure is a key facet of the Network's progression towards self-sustainability. Like any organization, a handbook that summarizes all of the IADN's policies is critical to the institution's ability to function independently. However, up to this point, the Network has lacked a comprehensive manual that outlines all of the key information necessary for governing the network. Partners has developed an outline for this manual and is in the process of compiling information both internally and from other organizations. The manual is divided into four sections as follows: administrative procedures; governability; IADN functions; employee functions; and annexes. The procedures manual will be transferred between Secretariats and will significantly assist the Coordinating Group, both new and future members, in its ability to govern the Network for years to come.

The outline of the procedures manual is included in the annex.

II.   *Developing a Long Term Fundraising Plan and Increasing IADN Membership*

        2.1 IADN Fundraising Opportunities

The IADN, jointly with Partners, has followed-up on potential project financing with entities such as the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), The Carter Center, and the Open Society Institute (OSI), among others. . Noting the IADN's rich history in training member CSOs in deliberation, the, and as part of a broader effort to take the IADN back to its deliberative roots, IAF has proposed a collaborative , pilot program to train key, well-poised member organizations in deliberation and conflict mediation. These member organizations, in turn, would become regional training "centers" on deliberation for community organizations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Deliberation is a process in which members of a community talk together about a common problem by considering different experiences and weighing the costs and benefits of various options for action. Participants in deliberation share stories, offer arguments, and listen to others' points of view in an effort to identify common ground for action. The consideration of different experiences and opinions can affect individuals' own ideas and help create a sense that there is

no one best option and compromise is necessary. Common ground, therefore, is not consensus but rather represents the collective actions or policy choices that participants can agree to support, even if they do not agree on everything. Deliberation is essential when decisions have to be made in situations where there are no right answers, as is often the case with political issues. Because deliberation is an inclusive process that incorporates diverse experiences and considers all possible points of view, it generates the political will and legitimacy necessary for successful policies. Deliberation also brings greater sustainability to decisions because they are not the result of snap judgments but rather are formed from careful reasoning and the weighing of the costs and benefits of different policies or options for collective action.

IAF, Partners and the IADN have tentatively selected the following countries for implementation of the pilot project: Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil. More information can be found about this possible project with IAF - titled "A Regional Program to Promote Deliberation for Grassroots Development" - in the annex for this section.

Opportunities for future project financing and collaboration have likewise arisen with The Carter Center. After an initial meeting at the Special Summit of the Americas, The Carter Center has continued to express interest in supporting the IADN and its work in engaging citizen participation in the Summit process. In addition, the Carter Center and IADN have discussed the possibility of the IADN's organizing and convening various persons as part of a possible visit to Argentina by former President Carter at the end of the year. The IADN has also engaged in multiple discussions with OSI about potential region-wide projects.

2.2 Membership Fee Structure Developed

For the last nine years, IADN membership has been free of charge. While helpful in enlisting new members, the Network has recognized that it should assess an annual membership fee to support its growing portfolio of initiatives, help create a sense of belonging, and above all, provide funding necessary for the transition toward self-sustainability. Partners, the Executive Secretariat, and the Coordinating Group have approved the following annual fee categories based upon the member's annual organizational budget :

Annual Organizational Budget   Annual Membership Fee
Up to US$ 75,000……………………….......US$75
From US$75,001 to US$150,000……………..US$100
From US$150,001 to US$250,000…………....US$150
From US$250,001 to US$500,000………..…..US$200
From US$500,001 to US$1,000,000…..……...US$300
More than US$1,000,001…………….……....US$400

Under this plan, individuals may also join the Network. However, unlike member organizations, individual members will not be permitted to vote, run for elected positions, or compete for sub-grant monies. The two types of individual categories are as follows:

Friends of the IADN..US$50
Young Friends of the IADN (ages 16 to 24)….US$20

Organizations that do not pay their membership dues will still be considered IADN members but will lose all member privileges until their account is in good standing. Further, IADN members will be entitled to 10 to 20 percent discounts off their annual fee for new member referral. This information appears in the new IADN Spanish and English brochures and will be announced to the general membership upon the conclusion of an annual fee awareness building campaign. The details of this campaign, plans for engagement of the private sector in the network, both as friends and potential sponsors, along with the exact date of fee implementation, will be determined during the May 2004 Coordinating Group meeting.
A detailed document explaining the membership fee structure and its categories is included in the annex to this section.

2.3 Outreach to IADN Members

IADN members receive a plethora of communications from the Network and its Executive Secretariat including frequent INFORID articles, monthly bulletins, and other pieces of information. Members will soon be sent an achievements letter that highlights IADN accomplishments dating back to its founding in 1995. This letter is part of the awareness building campaign and the Network's broader effort to generate greater excitement among and engagement by its members. Going beyond virtual interaction, select Coordinating Group members have convened the participation of network members in their countries to discuss IADN achievements, priorities and needs of its members. In the last quarter, Costa Rican-based Fundación por la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM) held and continues to hold monthly or bi-monthly meetings with the Costa Rican IADN members. These meetings open up a much needed public space for debate and dialogue on issues that are of critical importance to the IADN and to the local situation in Costa Rica. FUNPADEM encourages the Costa Rican organizations to invite non-IADN members to its dialogues. Moreover, Colombian-based Coordinating Group member Universidad de los Andes hosted a meeting of all Colombian-based IADN member organizations. Partners' Cynthia Smith was a guest speaker at the event. As a result of the meeting, Colombian member organizations determined the need to develop a national level, informal "network" of the IADN in Colombia to remain connected, share effective practices and ensure collaboration. The IADN Executive Secretariat convened over 20 IADN members from Argentina, along with scores of non-members, for a meeting with Irene Klinger, Executive Secretary, OAS Summit of the Americas Secretariat. The OAS, IADN Executive Secretariat and participants discussed civil society participation leading up to the 2005 Summit in Argentina. A summary of the March 24, 2004, meeting is included in the annex.

During the past quarter, the following eleven new members joined the Network: Transparencia Venezuela, La Usina, Fundación Nuevos Caminos, Ser Ciudadano, Interactuar, Asociación Civil Barrio Golf, Instituto de Estudios Sudamericanos, Consejo Nacional de la Juventud Boliviana, Corporación CreArte, Fundación Horizonte, and Instituto Jurídico Cristiano de Uruguay. Although not reflected in these numbers, the IADN' image and recognition continues to grow in many circles. The following quarter will focus more heavily upon increasing the membership base.

2.5 IADN Development of Collaborations

In the past quarter, the IADN has advanced in its development of strategic alliances with the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties (IAFPP) – an initiative of the OAS Unit for Promotion of Democracy (UPD), the Program for Democratic Government in Latin America (PRODDAL) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Freedom House and the Community of Democracies. The Executive Secretariat participated in IAFPP's fourth consultative committee meeting on March 10 in Washington, DC, opening the door for future collaborative efforts.

Further, PRODDAL and the IADN continue to discuss the best mechanisms for the IADN to participate in disseminating the results of "*Democracy in Latin America: Towards a Citizens' Democracy*" – the most significant UNDP initiative in Latin America for years. UNDP representatives will meet with the Executive Secretariat and the Coordinating Group during the May 2004 meeting. When meeting with IFES, a clear avenue of collaboration emerged with respect to the areas of political parties and transparency and anti-corruption. Using the IFES Money and Politics (MAP) program already being implemented throughout Eastern Europe, the IADN and IFES proposed extending this project monitoring political party financing to five Latin American countries – Bolivia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, and Paraguay.

Freedom House and the IADN have discussed collaborating in a "Democracy Observatory" project and incorporating an IADN designated expert in the "Freedom in the World" report. The "Democracy Observatory" will be developed through a joint proposal between the IADN, Freedom House, and Partners.

In January, the Executive Secretariat participated in the First Coordination Meeting of the Community of Democracies in preparation for the 2005 ministerial meeting in Santiago, Chile. The Community of Democracies seeks to strengthen collaboration among governments and democracy advocates in building an effective worldwide community of democratic nations based on the initiative of the June 2000 Warsaw Community of Democracies Conference. The IADN is well poised to play a key role leading up to and during the 2005 ministerial meeting through its INFORID news service, which will provide a platform for information dissemination. Further, Corporación Participa, an IADN Coordinating Group member, serves as the Executive Secretariat for the 2005 meeting. A copy of the First Coordination meeting agenda is included in the annex.

III.   Expanding IADN Outreach and Visibility

3.1 IADN Brochures and Bookmarks

In the last quarter, the IADN Secretariat developed a new institutional brochure reflecting the Network's areas of expertise: transparency and anti-corruption; hemispheric processes; decentralization and local governance strengthening; political parties; and building citizen participation. This brochure was published in Buenos Aires in mid-February and a copy is included in the annex. After approval of the new membership fee structure, Partners then designed and published an updated brochure incorporating these changes to the member

registration form. Both English and Spanish versions of the brochure have been printed. Copies of these brochures can also be found in the annex.

Additionally, Partners designed and published 3,000 Spanish and 3,000 English bookmarks highlighting the services available for members. The bookmarks will essentially function as a business card and can be easily distributed at conferences, meetings, and other events. Copies of the bookmarks are in the annex.

Finally, the Executive Secretariat published 1,500 newly designed IADN folders and IADN letterhead.

3.2 Executive Secretariat Outreach to the Media

The IADN Executive Secretariat participated in nine interviews over the past quarter to spread information about the IADN and its activities. Media coverage should further help to facilitate the expansion of the Network's membership base. Radio Madrid, Radio Ciudad, Radio Continental, *Clarín*, and *Tercer Sector* all conducted interviews either for radio programs or for newspaper or magazine articles. Interview topics focused on the Summits, the IADN's sub-grant program, and a letter sent to the OAS Secretary General expressing the concern of 50 IADN members about the situation in Haiti.

The letter to the OAS Secretary General and an article titled *Democratizing the Continent* are included in the annex.

IV. Disseminating News on Civil Society and IADN Activities

4.1 INFORID News Articles

In the last quarter, INFORID – the civil society news service that produces and disseminates news from member organizations fro media and civil society across the Americas – sent out nearly 60 news items from member organizations about themes related to the IADN's areas of expertise. The majority of the news pieces (21) were related to transparency and anti-corruption. INFORID articles also focused on electoral processes (9), hemispheric processes (7), democratic crises (6), citizen participation (5), and human rights (3). While news articles covered 16 countries and/or sub-regions, most of the news items centered on activities in El Salvador, Argentina, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic.

A myriad of IADN members from across the region took advantage of the INFORID to disseminate news originating from their organization. The following members submitted pieces to INFORID: Probidad El Salvador, Transparencia Paraguay, ISD of El Salvador, Participación Ciudadana of the Dominican Republic, Participa of Chile, Conciencia of Argentina, Acción por los Niños of Peru, Transparencia for Colombia, Voto Consciente of Brasil, Focal of Canada, CIPPEC, Asociación Lola Mora, Fundación Poder Ciudadano, Vicepresidencia de la Nación Argentina, Red Solidaria, INEA of Peru, Funpadem of Costa Rica, Corporación Chile Transparente, National Coordinator for the Defense of Women of Haiti, IDEA of Paraguay, Transparencia Brasil, Corporación Sisma Mujer Colombia, Mesa de Concertación para la Lucha

contra la Pobreza of Peru, Freedom House, Asociación Civil Mirador Democrático, Apalancar y Súmate.

In total, almost 40 percent of INFORID news articles were reproduced in other mediums. This high percentage signifies not only that people are reading INFORID but that its coverage is much larger and broader than the listserv. Articles were both re-printed or used as background. The annex contains a sampling of INFORID news articles including:

- "Results from the electoral observation in El Salvador";
- "A group of non-governmental organizations call upon the UN to condemn the imprisonment of human rights advocates in Cuba"; and
- "Alarming Data on Women in Colombia"

4.2 Monthly Bulletins

The IADN monthly newsletter is disseminated to approximately 1,060 recipients including Network members, organizations interested in Network activities, and others. Through this newsletter, the Secretariat is able to update all interested in the work of the IADN. A new section titled "government" updates bulletin recipients on IADN meetings and/or collaborative events with governments of the region. The February and March bulletins are included in the annex.

V.   Providing a Comprehensive Menu of Online Services

5.1 Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA)

The development of the IADN's website will be enhanced through additional money from outside sources. Last quarter, a proposal was submitted to the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) for the financing of two new modules on citizen responsibility and socially conscious journalism in the IADN's virtual center. The proposal also offered five distance learning courses. This proposal is pending review and is included in the annex.

5.2 Implementation of Virtual Courses

One of many virtual learning opportunities being developed by Partners and the IADN, pre-enrollment is currently open for "Constructing Social Capital". Working with the *Escuela Virtual de Gobernabilidad*, the IADN and Partners have completed development of the course outline and syllabus. The course's goal is to strengthen participants' ability to analyze implement mechanisms for civil society participation in public life and policymaking. Its four sections focus on the following topics: the importance of civil society in public life; institutions, governability and participation; civil society in the contemporary world; and influencing public policies. "Constructing Social Capital" will be taught from September 1, 2004, to December 31, 2004. USAID/IADN scholarships are available for members of the network, and to date, 32 students have enrolled in the course.

A course outline from the *Escuela Virtual de Gobernabilidad's* website and a more detailed course structure are included in the annex.

VI.   Highlighting the Importance of Citizen Participation

        6.1 Citizen Participation Index

Building upon the success of a pilot project gauging current citizen participation and motivations for participation in Chile, Partners has sub-contracted Corporación Participa to conduct a citizen participation index in seven countries of the region. The index will be compiled by analyzing the degree of participation in the following areas: political activities; religious activities; neighborhood and/or city activities; sporting activities; benefit or volunteer activities; union or professional activities; educational activities; artistic and cultural activities; election registration; committee activities; and protest activities. The index will be implemented in the following countries by IADN member organizations:

- Argentina. Poder Ciudadano/Asociación Conciencia
- Brazil. Voto Conciente
- Chile. Corporación Participa
- Costa Rica. Fundación por la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM)
- Dominican Republic. Participación Ciudadana
- Mexico. Alianza Cívica
- Peru. Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales (SER)

The project will be conducted from May 2004 – December 2004. A copy of the proposal can be found in the annex.

Annex

1. Procedures Manual Outline
2. Membership Fee Structure
3. Letter to the OAS Secretary General
4. "Democratizing the Continent"
5. Summary of OAS/IADN Meeting
6. Community of Democracies First Coordination Meeting Agenda
7. February 2004 Spanish Brochure
8. Redesigned Spanish Brochure
9. English Brochure
10. Spanish Bookmark
11. English Bookmark
12. "Results from the electoral observation in El Salvador"
13. "A group of non-governmental organizations call upon the UN to condemn the imprisonment of human rights advocates in Cuba"
14. "Alarming Data on Women in Colombia"
15. February Monthly Bulletin
16. March Monthly Bulletin
17. Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) Proposal
18. "Constructing Social Capital" Outline
19. "Constructing Social Capital" Detailed Course Structure
20. Citizen Participation Index in Seven Countries

21. IADN Executive Secretariat Quarterly Report